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Police arrest man for carjacking

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A warning for drivers who leave their car unlocked and the engine running even if it's just for a few minutes.

The Department of Public Safety reported the arrest of 26-year-old Alastair Tmachul Augustino in connection with a vehicle theft that occurred late Sunday evening in San Vicente.

According a press release



Augustino

from DPS yesterday, the incident took place around 10:28pm last Oct. 13, when the victim parked her black Mazda CX-9 at the Ming Yang Store. She briefly left her unlocked vehicle with the engine

See **POLICE** on Page 4



A photo grab of surveillance footage shows the carjacking victim trying to give chase to her black Mazda CX-9 after the suspect, presumed to be Alastair Tmachul Augustino, drove away with the sedan last Oct. 13 at the Ming Yang Store parking lot.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Star Marianas opposes Southern Airways' motion for dismissal

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Air, Inc. has filed its opposition to Marianas Southern Airway Express LLC's motion asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit Star Marianas filed over an \$8-million contract between Marianas Southern Airways and the

See **STAR** on Page 4

Arrivals drop 26% in September

According to monthly statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota decreased 26% to 14,555 visitors in September 2024, compared to 19,566 visitors received in September 2023.

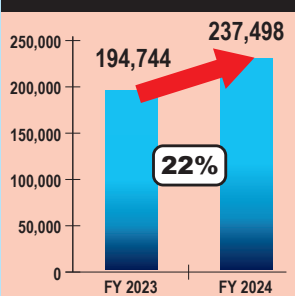
Total visitor arrivals for FY 2024 ending in

» **But CNMI welcomes 22% more visitors in FY 2024 than FY 2023**

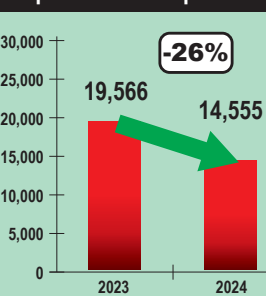
September reached 237,498 visitors, 22% more than FY 2023. Comparing FY 2024 to

See **ARRIVALS** on Page 4

Visitor Arrivals Year to Date
FY 2023 vs. FY 2024



Visitor Arrivals
Sept. 2023 vs. Sept. 2024



Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

SIS' Jesus Villagomez tops junior division of Sengebau poetry tilt



SKYLEE SANTOS

Saipan International School's Jesus Villagomez's holds the perpetual plaque after winning the junior division of the 2024 Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition last Friday at the American Memorial Park. He is joined in the photo by second placers Asher P. Reyel and Hannah Ramos of Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School and Lindsay Bocago and Alexander Salundaguit of Hopwood Middle School and third placer Kiano Arriola of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School. Also in photo are members of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council led by executive director Leo Pangelinan.

By **SKYLEE SANTOS**
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CORRESPONDENT

First of a two-part series

Jesus Villagomez's riveting rendition of Valentine Sengebau's "Strategy" took first place in the junior division of the 2024 Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition last Friday at the American Memorial Park.

The Saipan International School student chose the specific poem because "It depicts a native's perspective on the not-so-positive effects of colonization." His performance was marked by a strong, confident voice that carried the weight of the poem's critical examination of history. The tone firm, yet contemplative,

See **POETRY** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

For about eight years, Kyle Ahlstrom had been contentedly working for Home Depot Corporate in Utah. "My life was a little stagnant, and I hadn't grown at all," he said. All that was about to change.

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WORLD

South Korea said North Korea blew up the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use on Tuesday, as the rivals are locked in rising animosities over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its capital, Pyongyang.

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LIFE & STYLE

Pop superstar Taylor Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, were at Yankee Stadium on Monday night for Game 1 of the American League Championship Series between the Cleveland Guardians and New York Yankees.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Produced by National Disability Rights Network

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For more information about the screening and/or your rights as a voter with disabilities, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

This ad is paid through funding from the Administration of Community Living (ACL) and do not necessarily reflect their official views.

Local

Bill to repeal Justice Center Fund Revolving Account passes committee

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Standing Committee on Ways and Means passed yesterday House Bill 23-114 to repeal the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account despite recent push back by the NMI Judiciary.

Yesterday, the standing Committee on Ways and Means passed by majority vote H.B. 23-114 which essentially repeals the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account and reverts it back to the Department of Public Safety.

Authored by Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), the bill essentially aims to give back revenue collected through traffic fees to DPS as these funds have been kept in the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account—controlled by the NMI Judiciary—for 15 years.

“There has been confusion and resistance by the courts because this fund has been used to aid building the court and providing other types of support. The genesis of that is because at one point, the traffic fees that were supposed to be given to DPS were diverted to support this particular source of income for the courts. Now, DPS needs resources and its time that this Justice Center Fund be reversed, and the funds appropriated for this be given back to its original receiver which is DPS,” she said in a previous House session.

“I sincerely hope that the courts figure out a way to support their justice center fund because I will work and advocate for the funds that were meant for DPS, be given back to DPS. I want to make that very clear. The people deserve to remain safe and if these funds are going to be the cause and root of this, then the only way to fix this injustice is to give it back. DPS has suffered 15 years without these funds because it was diverted to the courts to support their extravagant building,” Flores added.

While Flores understands where the Judiciary is coming from, as these funds have long been used for the establishment and maintenance of NMI courthouses, she believes there are other sources of funds that the Judiciary can tap into.

“There are many courts that have been established, and there are grants that support these courts. So just as everybody else is assigned to look for grants, find money elsewhere, I’m pretty sure the court can also continue and apply for these grants. While the [Judiciary] made it very clear that monies will also be used to construct a new courthouse on Tinian, and make improvements to the Rota courthouse, while that’s very nice, I still think it’s due time that they figure out ways to support the extravagance of a courthouse,” she said.

The bill, having passed the committee, will be discussed in

the next House session where it may or may not make its way to the Senate for approval.

Last month, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro wrote to Senate President Edith De-Leon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) expressing concerns regarding current funds available in the Justice Center Fund

“Additionally, Section 707© of the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025 remits \$641,011 to the Second Senatorial District from the current funds available in the Justice Center

Fund, and the remaining funds to the Department of Public Safety,” he said.

The chief justice asks that the Legislature maintain the removal of the language that remits the funds in this account to DPS and the Second Senatorial District.

“However, the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has removed this language. The Judiciary respectfully asks that the removal of this language be maintained in the fiscal year 2025 budget. In recent years, the Judiciary has established treatment courts such as Drug Court and Men-

tal Health Court Docket and is in the process of exploring the creation of a Veterans Court. The evolving needs of these treatment courts demand more space, which the Justice Center Fund can support. Importantly, the funds in this revolving account are not limited to Saipan and the Judicial Branch; they will also be used to construct a new courthouse on the island of Tinian, as well as make improvements to the Rota Centron Hustisia, and to support the construction of new facilities for the Executive Branch’s Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the

Public Defender,” said Castro. Ultimately, if these funds are remitted and depleted, Castro says it is unclear when, if ever, important court initiatives can move forward.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff
First Hawaiian Bank

IN THE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK, a Hawaii Corporation,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-00015
Plaintiff,	AMENDED SUMMONS
v.	IN A CIVIL ACTION
TIANCHI CORPORATION, a Northern Mariana Islands Corporation and YOUNG FU HONG, Defendants.	

TO YONG FU HONG
PMB 498C BOX 10003
Saipan, MP 96950:

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after the last publication date of this amended summons you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. A copy of the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT has been delivered to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's office, whose name and address are:


VINCENT J. SEMAN
SEMAN LAW OFFICES, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950

If you fail to respond, judgement by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT. You must file your answer or motion with the court.


Dated: September 27, 2024


CLERK OF COURT

/s/
Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950





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- Assist with the coordination of program related inventory and supplies
- Adhere to the after school program licensing requirements
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DEADLINE: October 21, 4:30 p.m.
(complete package to be dropped off to KCC).
For more information on the application and program requirements, please contact:

Jennifer Tanaka	670-237-1017	jtanaka@dys.gov.mp
Anna Rangamar	670-237-1018	arangamar@dys.gov.mp
DYS Website	670-237-1000	www.dys.gov.mp

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POETRY

From page 1

mirroring the conflicting emotions of the indigenous people in the face of Western colonization.

His pacing was deliberate, well-timed which allowed his audience to absorb the gravity of the poem’s message. His calm delivery in contrast to the intensity of the poem’s themes created a palpable tension in the room that held the audience’s attention throughout his performance. His gestures, although minimal, were effective as he stood still for much of the performance allowing the words to speak for themselves—so to say. The stillness combined with focused eye contact, reinforced the seriousness of the context and the poem’s emphasis on enduring struggles of colonized people.

Villagomez’s performance brought a fresh perspective to the historical complexities of colonization, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Duos from both Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School—Lindsay D. Bocago and Hannah R. Ramos—and Hopwood Middle School—Kiano Jude R. Arriola and Alexander Joseph M. Salunguit—finished tied for second with their spectacular performances.

Bocago and Ramos presented one of Sengebau’s works, “The Task”

displaying a deep understanding of the poem’s themes relating to the cultural heritage and identity. Their duet began with harmonious balance, seamlessly transitioning between each other’s voices and created a rich and engaging auditory experience.

Bocago opened with a strong and clear voice, immediately drawing attention with passion. She emphasized the importance of preserving the cultural legacies and connection between past and present. Her gestures were expressive yet controlled, using her hands to illustrate key concepts and engage in visuals with the audience.

Ramos joined in equal fervor, complementing Bocago’s delivery with a slightly softer tone that added depth to the performance. Her presence brought a dynamic element blending urgency with sincerity to the poem’s message. Together, they maintained eye contact with the audience, creating a connection that invited listeners to reflect on their own cultural identities.

Their pacing was well coordinated with each pause, the audience absorbed the significance of their words. The interplay between their voices heightened the emotional resonance of the poem, especially in moments that addressed the challenges faced by their ancestors. Their performance not only highlighted their individual talents but also the strength and unity of storytelling through poetry.

From HMS, Arriola and Salunda-

guit performed Sengebau’s “Searching” with a strong introduction to who they were, their personal stories resonating with the poem. Delivering the poem with a mixture of emotional vulnerability and pride, their voices carried the weight of personal experience: the universal struggle of finding one’s place in the world, particularly as an individual from minority communities.

Both had impactful tones. Arriola’s tone was reflective, soft, and filled with personal emotion, particularly as she recounted moments of guidance from his uncle and grandparents. His pace was steady, allowing the audience to absorb the weight of his words. Salundaguit’s delivery was filled with emotional conflict and intellectual struggle. His variation in tone and pacing added depth to the performance, creating moments of tension and release that heightened the emotional impact.

The performance was compelling, offering a raw and honest portrayal of the challenges associated with cultural identity. Both Arriola and Salundaguit managed to convey complex emotions through their delivery, making the themes of the poem feel personal yet widely relevant. Their performance left a lasting impression on the audience, earning praise for its authenticity and emotional depth.

Taking third place with a captivating performance was Dr. Rita Hocog

Inos Jr. Sr. High School’s Asher P. Reyel, who recited another one of Sengebau’s works, “Mirage.” Reyel skillfully embodied the poem’s central theme: the tension between ambition and the realization that the journey, rather than the destination, holds true significance.

His voice was calm and deliberate, drawing the audience into the reflective nature of the poem. His steady pacing allowed the audience to contemplate the meaning of each line, especially as he highlighted keywords and phrases that conveyed the poet’s sense of frustration and eventual enlightenment. His vocal tone mirrored the emotional shifts in the poem, moving from a determined, almost urgent tone at the beginning—where ambition takes center stage—to a more resigned, thoughtful tone as the character realizes the futility of his pursuit of external success.

His pacing quickened slightly in moments of tension, such as when the character expresses frustration at not achieving the honor he sought, before slowing again to emphasize the poem’s resolution and lesson. Reyel used pauses effectively, particularly after emotionally charged lines, giving the audience time to absorb the deeper meaning behind the metaphor of the “mirage.”

These well-timed breaks allowed for moments of reflection and added

weight to the poem’s more introspective passages.

His quiet, measured delivery encouraged reflection, and his ability to convey the poem’s message without excessive theatrics made the performance feel genuine and relatable. Reyel’s recital was met with enthusiastic applause, acknowledging the emotional impact and the clarity of his interpretation.

Competitors in the junior division recite poems composed by Sengebau that were published in a 2004 anthology, titled “Microchild.” The competition is open to all middle school (junior) and high school (senior) students and is held annually in October, CNMI Humanities Month.

The annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition is held in honor of the late Valentine Sengebau, who spent the last 25 years of his life in his adopted home of Saipan. The Palauan poet composed dozens of poems that were published in the *Micronesian Reporter* and the *Marianas Variety*. Sengebau’s poetry expressed the joys and sorrows of his life, his concerns regarding loss of cultural identity in the islands, as well as the political negotiations between the United States and Micronesia.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

STAR

From page 1

administration of former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Last week, Star Marianas, through attorney Mark Scoggins, filed its opposition to Southern Airways’ motion to dismiss.

According to Scoggins, addressing Southern Airways’ argument of failure to name a necessary party to the action—the government of the CNMI—the CNMI is an indispensable party therefore the motion should be dismissed.

The opposing motion states that the argument is unsupported because Southern Airways limits its argument to the circumstances of the contract with the CNMI.

“It argues that the CNMI is an indispensable party because the court cannot accord complete relief in relation to a contract to which the CNMI is a party. Star Marianas can only respond that it has not sought relief in relation to any contract, and it does not seek to have any contract declared illegal or enjoined from enforcement. Southern Airways’ argument has nothing to do with anything happening in this lawsuit. All of the allegations in the complaint concerning the contract refers to activities that have already occurred in the past. Star Marianas has made no allegations that the performance under the contract is ongoing or that the performance is still required. The only request for injunctive relief Star Marianas has made has nothing to do with the past contracts and would only restrain the defendants. Nothing Star Marianas has requested of the court will have any impact on the CNMI’s past contractual relationship with any

party to this case,” said Scoggins.

Last June, Star Marianas filed a lawsuit against Southern Airways Express LLC and Marianas Pacific Express LLC who were previously operating Marianas Southern Airways until the airline stopped operating last year.

In the lawsuit, there are two counts in filed against Southern Airways, one alleging an attempt to monopolize the airline industry market in the Northern Mariana Islands, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, and the other alleging that Southern Airways conspired with its co-defendants to unreasonably restrain trade in that market, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act. 15 U.S.C. §§1-2.

Both claims were based upon a sole source contract entered into between the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and defendant Marianas Pacific Express LLC doing business as Marianas Southern Airways—a joint venture between defendant Southern Airways and defendant Keith Stewart—an interisland air passenger and cargo service in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Southern Airways, through attorney Sean E. Frink, now argues that dismissal is warranted because both claims against Southern Airways (and all counts and claims against all three private party defendants) pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as Star Marianas has failed to state any claim upon which relief should be granted.

In addition, Frink argues that the lawsuit should be dismissed because Star Marianas failed to join the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a necessary and indispensable party under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 19, in the complaint.

“Plaintiff has failed to state a

cause of action against Southern Airways (or either of the other two defendants) under the Sherman Act because Parker immunity prohibits any such claim. Moreover, because the CNMI is a necessary and indispensable party that Plaintiff has failed to join, the Complaint must be dismissed. As such, the Complaint should be dismissed, with prejudice, pursuant to Rules 12(b)(6) and 12(b)(7) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,” said Frink.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona is set to hear the matter on Nov. 21.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Star Marianas, through attorneys Richard Richards and Mark Scoggins, filed a lawsuit against Marianas Southern Airways and its president with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Aside from them, Star Marianas also named Southern Airways Express LLC and Marianas Pacific Express LLC as defendants.

Star Marianas has filed six counts of violations of the Sherman Act against Marianas Southern Airways pursuant to an \$8-million sole source contract between the airline and the CNMI government under the previous administration.

The Sherman Act aims to increase economic competitiveness by outlawing trusts, monopolies, and cartels.

As relief, Star Marianas is asking the District Court to restrain the defendants from establishing any similar agreements that unreasonably restrict competition and create a “conspiracy to monopolize the CNMI airline industry.”

Star Marianas also wants the court to award them damages in an amount to be determined at trial, and other relief the court may find just and proper.

ARRIVALS

From page 1

FY 2023, arrivals from Korea grew 12%, arrivals from Japan increased 71%, and arrivals from China increased 294%

Total FY 2024 arrivals were 44% lower than pre-pandemic arrivals of 424,838 in FY 2019.

In September, visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 10,866, 34% lower than 16,444 visitors received in September 2023. T’way Air cancelled flights from Seoul-Incheon on Sept. 7-13 and 23-29, 2024, due to aircraft maintenance requirements and a lack of sufficient aircraft. In addition, Asiana Airlines had closed its Saipan office on June 30, 2024, and TMON (Ticket Monster)—one of the most popular e-commerce platform for booking travel packages, recently suspended operations. However, these challenges were offset by five extra charter flights to Saipan by Jeju Air accommodating a spike in

travel during the Chuseok holiday mid-month.

Visitor arrivals from Japan registered 551 in September 2024 compared to 515 visitors in September 2023, a 7% increase. The strong U.S. dollar and weaker Japanese yen continue to influence travelers to choose non-U.S. or domestic destinations, as well a current preference for domestic travel among Japanese travelers. Comparing FY 2024 to FY 2023, arrivals from Japan have grown 71% in the last year

China arrivals in September 2024 reached 1,505 compared to 854 arrivals in September 2023. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Hong Kong Airlines now flies twice weekly between Hong Kong and Saipan.

In August the Marianas also received 743 visitors from Guam, 589 visitors from the USA, and a combined 301 visitors from all other markets. **(PR)**

POLICE

From page 1

still on to check on washers at the Fresh Laundromat. Upon returning, she saw her vehicle speeding away from the parking lot.

A few minutes later, a witness in Kagman called the DPS emergency line, reporting the sighting of the stolen Mazda sedan. Officers quickly tracked down the suspect, identified as Augustino. Augustino confessed to taking the vehicle, stating he had been drinking in Chalan Lau Lau and, feeling tired of walking, decided to steal the car.

Augustino was promptly arrested and charged with multiple offenses, in-

cluding theft of vehicle, reckless driving, and driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. He remains in custody at the Department of Corrections with bail set at \$10,000.

In a social media post, the carjacking victim thanked police for the recovery of her vehicle. She said she got a call from police last Monday, saying that her sedan was in Kagman. She immediately drove to the area and got lost a bit before meeting up with DPS officers who had her vehicle. Aside from police, she also thanked witnesses who helped track down her car and those in social media who gave her a lot of advise in managing her fear and anger following the carjacking of her vehicle. “It’s a wonderful [night],” she ended her post.

GMS Multicultural Day highlights global cultures

Green Meadow School hosted its annual Multicultural Day last Oct. 11, transforming the Chalan Kanoa campus into a lively celebration of global cultures. The event featured cultural booths, dance performances, and national costumes, with countries like Japan, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, the USA, Hawaii, Mexico, and China represented.

» **Event also full of performances, booths, competitions**

The full-day celebration fostered a deep appreciation for the richness and diversity of world traditions, engaging students, faculty, and families alike.

Students from first to eighth grade created country-themed booths, showcasing the history, customs, and cuisines of their selected nations. Each booth offered visitors a taste of the country's unique heri-



Green Meadow School's annual Multicultural Day last Oct. 11 featured cultural booths, dance performances, and national costumes, with countries like Japan, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, the USA, Hawaii, Mexico, and China represented.

tage, from Japan's iconic art to Mexico's vibrant traditions. The Philippines, USA, Korea, Hawaii, Thailand, and China also brought their colorful cultures to life through creative displays and presentations. Judges evaluated the booths based on creativity, accuracy, and engagement, awarding prizes to those who demonstrated exceptional effort and detail.

Preschool students entertained the crowd with traditional dances from various cultures. Their joyful performances, representing the Philippines, China, and Hawaii, captured the attention of both attendees and judges, who evaluated the dances based on choreography, cultural representation, and performance quality.

Adding to the multicultural



spirit, students, teachers, and parents proudly wore national costumes from around the world, contributing to the colorful and festive atmosphere. Judges were on hand to assess these stunning outfits, recognizing the most creative and culturally authentic costumes worn by participants. This aspect of the event allowed everyone in the school community to personally engage with and celebrate global traditions.

The day concluded with the announcement of winners for the best booths, dance performances, and national costumes, marking the event as an unforgettable learning experience for all. (PR)

Bautista, Tolentino receive Camacho Scholarships

The Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation awarded Ayda V. Bautista and Renz Radneil Tolentino \$1,500 each for this academic year 2024-2025. The Scholarship Foundation has been a longstanding, generous partner of Guam Community College, helping business students focus on their education without the financial burden of tuition costs.

The Foundation's mission is to support students pursuing degrees in Business Administration at GCC, with a commitment to nurturing future leaders in the island community.

To qualify, applicants must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, be enrolled full-time, and pursue studies in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Business, Accounting, Marketing, or Supervision and Management. Special consideration is



Carlos Camacho, left, speaks with Renz Radneil Tolentino, middle, and Ayda V. Bautista during the Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation presentation at the Guam Community College Learning Resource Center. Tolentino and Bautista were awarded \$1,500 each for academic year 2024-2025.

given to first-generation college students.

Bautista is working toward her Associate of Science in Liberal Studies Business Track and is expected to complete in December 2025. Tolentino is double majoring for an Associate of Science in Accounting and Associate of Science Marketing, he will complete in May 2026. (PR)



From left, Carlo M. Leon Guerrero, GCC board of trustees chair; Carlos P. Camacho, Camacho Foundation Community Relations manager; Ayda V. Bautista, Camacho Foundation Scholarship recipient; Renz Radneil Tolentino, Camacho Foundation Scholarship recipient; Lorraine Okada, Guam Community College Foundation board chair; and Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president and CEO pose for a group photo.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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EDITORIAL

Ticking down—The states take aim at TikTok

Last week, 14 state attorneys general, including New York AG Tish James, sued the social media platform TikTok for allegedly damaging young users’ mental health and collecting information about them with its service in violation of state and federal laws.

Where once this type of action would have been eye-popping, it’s become somewhat routine in the last several years as the general goodwill for big tech and social media—once hailed as an endgame innovation to fix all manner of social problems—curdled into distrust. Similar lawsuits have targeted Meta, the parent of Facebook and Instagram, and Google, parent of YouTube, among other companies.

This is for good reason; these companies now arguably have more global influence than most countries. They operate as effectively international public squares and media platforms, with internal rules and practices that govern how billions of people perceive reality and shape their understandings.

As we’ve seen in recent years, this immense influence and a general hands-off approach to oversight have not combined well. Platforms have been exploited to spread and cement everything from political propaganda by foreign states to climate change misinformation to vaccine skepticism to pro-anorexia content and non-consensual explicit material often targeted at and involving teens.

Practically speaking, it is all but impossible to fully moderate platforms of billions of users in multiple languages in a way that heads off all these potential harms, but that doesn’t mean these companies haven’t made poor choices that made things worse.

While a lot of hand-wringing over TikTok has focused on its Chinese ownership, that’s not the issue here, but rather the fact that it’s aggressively targeted minors and gathers reams of data about them. The platform is practically built to be addictive, with the endless scroll of video autoplay and its penchant for viral soundtracks and trends pinging off each other.

A staggering 58% of all teens 13 to 17 say they are daily on TikTok, with about a fifth saying they use the app “almost constantly.” Whether the app likes it or not, it has a huge responsibility to them, especially as teen mental health experiences precipitous declines.

It’s worth emphasizing that this doesn’t mean that the entire issue of a decline in teen mental health can be fully laid at the feet of TikTok or any other social media platform; the issue is too complex and consists of too many variables. Post-COVID, teens are suffering from extreme polarization, climate change fear, economic uncertainty and myriad other factors. But social media does often have a tendency to amplify these factors, making them feel inescapable or all-encompassing, a force multiplier for despair just as it can be a positive tool for organization and building community.

Lawsuits are not always a panacea, and we won’t say as a matter of course that every remedy sought by lawmakers, regulators and the AGs is ideal. But forcing these companies to face accountability is generally a good thing, just as it’s been helpful to shed additional light via diligent reporting, advocacy, whistleblowers and congressional inquiry, among other avenues. There’s a happy medium to be reached, which requires some push-pull from companies that are pretty used to doing things their own way.

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Nobel prizes give Google the glow it craves

An executive from a large technology firm has just won a Nobel. On Thursday, the top prize for chemistry went to the head of Alphabet Inc.’s AI efforts, Demis Hassabis, along with two other key scientists, for a years-long project that used artificial intelligence to predict the structure of proteins.

The day before, Geoffrey Hinton, a former executive at Google who’s been called a godfather of AI, won the Nobel prize for physics along with physicist John Hopfield, for work on machine learning.

It seems the Nobel Foundation is eager to mark AI advancements—and the notion that key scientific problems can be solved computationally—as worthy of its coveted prizes. That will be a reputational boon for firms like Google and executives like Hassabis. But there’s a risk too that such recognition obscures concerns about both the technology itself and the increasing concentration of AI power in a handful of companies.

Hassabis himself has long craved this accolade, having told staff for years that he wanted DeepMind, the AI lab he co-founded and sold to Google in 2015, to win between three and five Nobel Prizes over the next decade. At a press conference on Wednesday, he called the award “an unbelievable honor of a lifetime” and said he’d been hoping to win it this time around. Indeed, he initially shaped DeepMind as a research lab with utopian objectives, where many of its leading scientists worked on building AI systems to help cure diseases like cancer or solve global warming.

But that humanitarian agenda faded to the background after the sale to Google and especially after the release of OpenAI’s ChatGPT, which sparked a race among tech giants to deploy chatbot-style technology to businesses and consumers. DeepMind has since become more product-focused (information about its healthcare and climate efforts disappeared from its homepage, for example), though it has continued with health-related efforts like AlphaFold. Out of DeepMind’s roughly 1,500-strong workforce, a team of just two dozen people were running the protein-folding project when it reached a critical milestone in 2020, according to a video documentary about the effort.

The Nobel will surely give Hassabis a credibility boost at Alphabet, where he has been leading the company’s fraught efforts to keep up with OpenAI. Google’s flagship AI model Gemini has grappled with controversies over its frequent mistakes and the possibility it will choke off traffic to the rest of the web. Now perhaps a smoother path has been paved for Hassabis if he wants to become Alphabet’s next chief executive. The former chess champion is a consummate strategist and rivals Sam Altman as the world’s most successful builder of AI technology, having pushed the boundaries of fields like deep learning, reinforcement learning and games-based models such as AlphaGo, which beat world champion Go players

By PARMY OLSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Parmy Olson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering technology. A former reporter for the Wall Street Journal and Forbes, she is author of “We Are Anonymous.”



eight years ago. Hassabis was already talking about taking on protein folding during those matches.

The glow benefits Google, too. Recent challenges from antitrust regulators over monopolistic behavior haven’t helped its reputation as a company founded on the principle of “don’t be evil.” Now with two Nobel prizes linked to work done by its scientists, the tech giant can more easily frame itself as providing services that are ultimately good for society, as its lawyers have been arguing, and perhaps generate goodwill more broadly with the public and regulators.

But we shouldn’t forget the tension between the high-minded goals professed by Big Tech and what their businesses are really focused on. Google, which derives close to 80% of its revenue from advertising, is now putting ads into its new AI search tool. For businesses, that invites a new layer of complexity to online advertising, while consumers face the prospect of wading through AI-generated information that Google is trying to monetize and which could one day become more biased toward advertisers.

Remember also that Google’s prioritization of human wellbeing was called into question less than three years ago when it fired two leading AI ethics experts who’d warned about the risks that its AI models could entrench bias, spread misinformation and hoard energy, issues that haven’t gone away. A September study in Nature, for instance, showed that AI tools like ChatGPT were making racist decisions about people based on their dialect.

The Nobel Prize is designed to recognize people who’ve made outstanding contributions to science, humanism and peace, so the Foundation behind it has taken a bold stance in validating the work of AI and of one company in particular. The award to Hassabis—like the peace prize given to Barack Obama one year after he was elected as president—feels a little premature. It’s still unclear what kind of broad, real-world impact DeepMind’s protein-folding project will have on the medical field and drug discovery.

Let’s hope the prize motivates well-endowed technology firms to invest much more in using AI for public service efforts like protein folding and in AI ethics research—and doesn’t muddy the debate over the very real risks that AI poses to the world too.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of, for, and by the people—CNMI impotency!

Last of a three-part series

The truth of the matter is “politics-poli-tricks and more politics” we have to suffer under and a great example is CPA and MPLT. The recent resignation of Mr. Ayuyu is just more proof of the poli-ticks and poli-tricks at CPA that is run by ex-politicians and it stinks so bad they can smell it on Mars. There is one thing after another with CPA and I’m willing to bet it’s mostly “CPA politics,” as most organizations and institutions of size and power will forever have their on “inside-politics and power struggles.” Mr. Ayuyu is the only private citizen who is not tied to the GOP political party at CPA and I truly pray this gives him the fortitude to really do something about our ugly politics and poli-tricking of the GOP over the past two decades. Run for governor Mr. Ayuyu as a Democrat or independent who have never harmed the CNMI unlike the GOP who has destroyed our economy. We need leaders like you who are “of and for the people,” not GOP power-politics. The reason many citizens say “I don’t like nor trust any of them” is because of their ugly poli-tricking and impotency over the past two decades by the GOP who have been in power. “Power corrupts and absolute power absolutely corrupts” and Ralph proved it! The all-powerful GOP must end!

The GOP has tried to assassinate my character ever since I helped Bishop Camacho and the church by leading the “No to the Casino Vote” and won. But Ambrose has never been the enemy of the CNMI just an activist for the people and most citizens know it, especially those who have open objective minds with a genuine religious constitution. But given there is an enemy, it is one of our own makings like we did with Trump and Trump Jr.-Ralph. The only real cure for most of our economic and social ailments is a real change in the way of reforms. Piecemealing legislation “little by little” when we

need reform legislation is like putting a Band-Aid on a broken arm and parasitic in our nature.

I’ve been warning about dangers coming over the horizon before they hit and offering social and economic solutions ever since I started writing back in 2001. But the GOP has continued to manipulate the Legislature into ignoring me preying on every politician’s desire to “be the one with the cure” and to stop the outsider. But if you look at all the election signs, I’ve only seen two by Ogomuro and Propst that actually promote them doing something, while others only say, “vote for me.” They don’t even want to promise us anything anymore, while not prioritizing voters.

The loss cure to our impotency for the people has always been the inability to create something new for the people and the CNMI beyond taxes. I wrote a long time ago that “the CNMI can never expect to receive big benefits from small-time thinking” especially in this day an age of tourism competition with our neighbors in Guam and even Hawaii. I keep reminding our leaders that “all the little fish get eaten by the big fish and we must learn to grow big” which is why Guam, the big fish, has continued to eat most of the tourism business. We’ve been following the GOP for two decades with their casino that Bishop Camacho warned us about, now it’s clear we are virtually worse off than we were two decades ago. Heck, Sen. Jude, King-Hinds, and the GOP’s idea of flights from China is not working out as predicted by Republicans, as the arrivals continue to decline like I warned, so who is the real enemy in this fight to fix our impotent economy—the

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.



real economist, me or the picknick table idealists of the GOP!

The problem is “the governor and the Legislature” have failed to deliver any new revenue sources for the people, just taxes. Guam has virtually captured the cannabis tourism market by simply declaring it legal and we are not even putting up a fight. We are so impotent leaving MVA with nothing new and exciting to sell our potential tourists’ countries and we really don’t have anything special to sell to Chinese tourists—heller! If we, as a people and leaders, don’t wake up and get a real economist to help make real economic changes/reforms, then we are doomed to continue our economic impotency, while the big fish Guam and the rest of the world continues to turn the page. After two decades of the GOP, we must give Democrats and independents a real chance in this and the next election—it’s just that simple for fertilization to end our impotency!

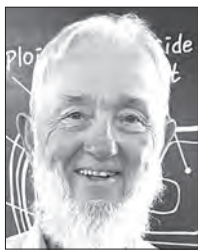
Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka “Pepe Batbon” is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



When in the mood for solitude

(didactic doggerel from Batbon’s Brane)

“When a man knows the solitude of silence, and feels the joy of quietness he is then free from fear and sin.”—Buddha

Some feel screwed get the blues then go get tattooed some bulk up on sweet and salty snacks and fried food I drink watered down whiskey and get slightly stewed then walk down to a beach where lovers are wooed some couch potatoes stay home with eyes on TV glued some without agoraphobia will travel and not elude seeing Michelangelo’s marble statue David in the nude most avoid lying politicians who act in a manner rude or listen to those who have no moral integrity aptitude stay away from friends who are not in a loving mood and those who resort to troubles by taking a Quaalude skip those online cyber sites that are most ballyhooed don’t let the consumption of drugs and alcohol delude walking in solitude can be your own blessed beatitude.

Listen to the words on solitude attributed to Buddha try and avoid saying I shoulda or sure wish I woulda try and find some time and place by yourself alone specifically without using any TV or your cell phone think I can and will do it daily admit I always coulda.

The Supreme Court ghost gun arguments were cringeworthy

Should so-called ghost guns—assembled at home from kits in as little as 20 minutes—be counted as guns for purposes of federal law?

If you have an ounce of common sense, the answer is obviously yes. The relevant law defines a firearm as “any weapon ... which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.” The definition specifically includes “the frame ... of any such weapon.” And the undoubted purpose of the law is to protect Americans from untraceable guns being used in crimes—a purpose that clearly applies to any functional firearm, which ghost guns are.

Yet the Supreme Court heard oral argument on Tuesday about whether ghost guns count as firearms. A federal district court judge as well as the ultraconservative U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit both held the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had exceeded its authority under the federal law when it adopted a rule in 2022 making it clear that ghost guns must follow the same rules as other guns: that they be stamped with a serial number and that sellers conduct background checks.

After oral argument, it seems possible that the justices will reach a commonsense result. But that’s not at all certain.

The reason is that, on Tuesday, the justices sidestepped discussion of the law’s purpose. Instead, they spent the argument deep in the linguistic weeds, arguing about whether the ATF was right to say that a partially disassembled gun frame is still, you guessed it, a gun frame. This is textualism—the idea that statutes should be interpreted according to their words but not according to their purpose.

If this gives you a sense of horrified déjà vu, that’s because it echoes a case the court heard last term. In that case, the court had to decide whether the ATF was right to define bump stocks as machine guns. During oral arguments in *Garland v. Cargill*, the justices were similarly unwilling to ask the basic question of whether the purpose of the machine gun law was served by including bump stocks, which enable semiautomatic assault rifles to fire up to 800 rounds a minute. Then, in June, the justices ruled, 6-3, that bump stocks can’t be regulated as machine guns.

The absurdity of the bump stock decision is why I am not confident that the court will get the ghost guns issue right. There’s

By NOAH FELDMAN

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of “To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People.”



no doubt that ghost guns pose a public safety hazard. The government introduced evidence showing a 1,000% rise in the use of such guns for criminal purposes in the years before the ATF issued its clarifying rule. But the court cannot base its ruling on those real-world consequences as long as it is determined to focus only on a law’s text.

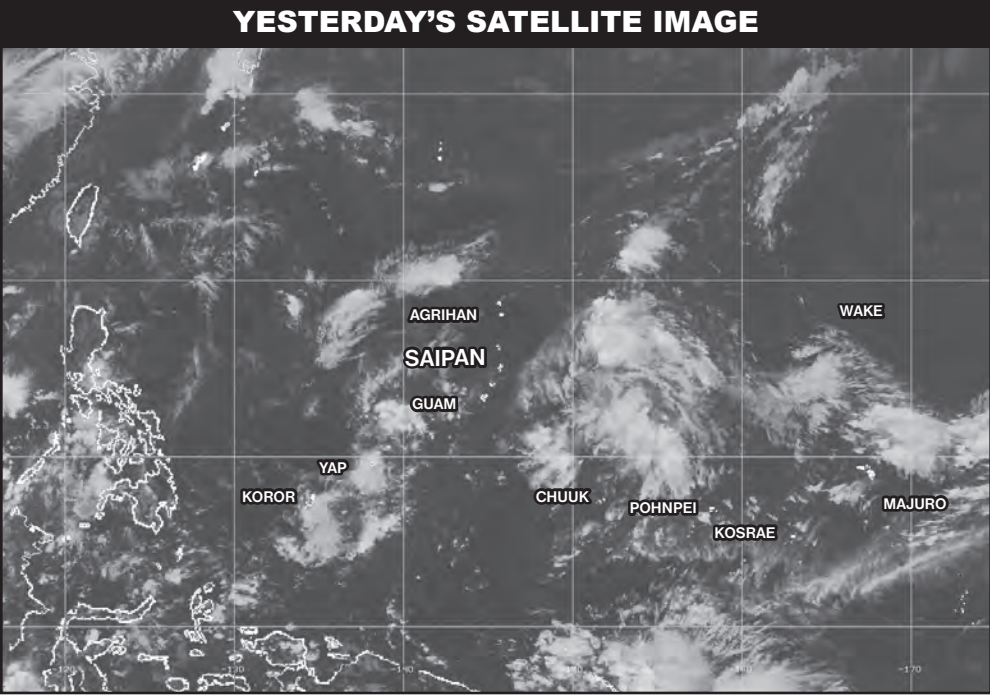
And so on Tuesday, the pro-ghost gun lawyers warned the justices that, if gun kits count as a gun, then AR-15s might count as machine guns, since they, too, can be turned into machine guns using a kit. The argument is specious, to be sure. But take a second to wonder at its sheer outrageous chutzpah: The justices were being told that if they treat ghost guns as guns, they might be forced to treat rifles that can become machine guns as, gulp, machine guns.

For five justices to uphold the ATF’s rule on ghost guns, without considering the rule’s purpose, they will have to declare that the language of the statute is clear. They will have to say that the parts in the ghost gun kits can be “readily converted” to firearms. That’s easy enough. But they will also have to say that something that can be readily turned into a gun frame counts as a gun frame. That’s logically straightforward in terms of the law’s purpose, but in a world of statutory interpretation bereft of logic, it may tax the justices’ interpretation skills.

For now, we are left hoping that the justices reach the right result, albeit for the wrong reasons. This awkward situation will prevail until, eventually, the court comes to its senses and starts considering a law’s purpose relevant to what the law means—the way nearly all legal systems have since the dawn of legal time.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

We sent out a quick update to add mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers for this afternoon near western coastlines, as light winds and mostly clear skies should provide favorable conditions for island convection to develop after 10 AM, especially by early afternoon during max heating.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:32 AM	4:57 PM
Thursday	-	5:32 AM	5:41 PM
Friday	-	6:33 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	-	7:37 AM	7:18 PM
Sunday	-	8:43 AM	8:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	72° / 56°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Showers	63° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 58°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Miami	Showers	85° / 78°	
New York	Clear	67° / 48°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 71°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Busan	Rain	66° / 55°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 48°	
Seoul	Cloudy	71° / 62°	
Tokyo	Fair	80° / 65°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	71° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:25 AM	Low Tide	0.49	
06:12 AM	High Tide	1.89	
12:30 PM	Low Tide	0.24	
6:39 PM	High Tide	2.04	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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GROWING AND SERVING IN CHUUK:

4 Latter-day Saint young adults teach kids on Weno

For about eight years, Kyle Ahlstrom had been contentedly working for Home Depot Corporate in Utah. "My life was a little stagnant, and I hadn't grown at all," he said.

All that was about to change.

He began socializing and getting out more—"Dipping my toe a little bit out of my comfort zone," as Ahlstrom puts it. At a young single adult activity, he met an energetic young teacher named Launi Brent. They fell in love, eloped and at Brent's behest departed immediately for a small island group in the Pacific called Chuuk.

At this point, Ahlstrom went from just dipping his toe out of his comfort zone, to full immersion.

On Aug. 16, 2024, Ahlstrom and Brent arrived in Chuuk in Micronesia, a place that neither had previously heard of, having committed to teach together at Akoyikoyi School on Weno, Chuuk's main island. Joining them was Brent's good friend Jenna Watson from Payson, Arizona.

Watson was attending BYU-Idaho and teaching art education when Brent recruited her to join them for a teaching adventure at the Akoyikoyi School. "It was totally uncharacteristic of me to commit to travel halfway around the world to live and teach on a distant island which I had never heard of," explained Watson, but she decided to consider the invitation.

Of particular concern to Watson, her brother James was about to return home after having served an extended military deployment in the Middle East. She had been looking forward to being there with the rest of her family to celebrate his safe homecoming. If she committed to teach at Akoyikoyi, she would miss



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Akoyikoyi School's Kyle Ahlstrom, Launi Brent, Chad Hall, and Jenna Watson.

this reunion.

Watson prayed for guidance on what she should do. When she spoke with James about the matter, he strongly encouraged her to go to Chuuk and take advantage of such a great opportunity. "Why not take a chance on something that's going to be an amazing experience," she decided, "and this will help me see if I truly enjoy teaching." She then began making arrangements to meet her friends in Chuuk.

Meanwhile, Chad Hall from Southern Utah, who five years previously had served as a young missionary on Chuuk, was feeling that his life was "stuck in the same place," and was looking for an opportunity to grow. He had worked as an FSY counselor and was trying to figure out his next adventure.

His former companion from the Micronesia/Guam Mission, Logan Thompson, reached out, asked if he missed his mission area, and suggested that he go back to teach at Akoyikoyi School. "I thought about it and was impressed that this would be the best place for me to go for my next growing experience," Hall said.

The island and the experience

Two aspects of Chuuk stood out to the newly arrived teach-

ers: The beauty of the island and the friendliness of the islanders.

They enjoyed the beauty of the lush jungles, the fresh local produce, and a little swimming in the warm, tropical waters. "It's the most beautiful place I've ever been," said Brent. "I was surprised by that."

But the friendliness of the Chuukese islanders perhaps made the biggest impression.

Each school day the teachers travel down a narrow road that cuts through dense tropical vegetation to the school. Islanders greet them with smiles and friendly waves as they pass by. On Sundays they walk to the Mechitiw Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to gather and worship with local Church members.

At Akoyikoyi, the students and parents are sincerely grateful for these enthusiastic, positive young teachers who are willing to leave the comforts of home and serve.

"Utah is a friendly place, but here it's a whole new level of friendliness, with everyone wanting to say hi to you and be your friend," explained Brent, who teaches seventh grade. "The kids and parents bring us gifts, like earrings and skirts. They are very interested in us. They want to know

all about how Kyle and I met. The students like to draw pictures of Kyle proposing to me. It is so easy to like the students and their parents!"

During breaks, Brent plays guitar and sing songs with the students. Islanders love music and love to sing. She also teaches a music class at the school.

Watson, who teaches third and fifth grade, describes how important it has been for her to make personal connections with her students. "I care about the students," explained Jenna. "I let them know that I care about them, that I want them to succeed, and they trust me." She notes that they are typical kids and can have normal classroom issues, but when you connect with them personally you create an environment where learning can happen.

Watson's students reciprocate the compassion and love that she shows to them. "If I'm having a little bit of a down day, they sense it and try to make me feel better," she explained. "Even a tiny cut will bring sympathy. They offer to do things for me all the time."

Ahlstrom, who teaches first and fourth grade, learned a lesson about classroom management and island culture at the same time. He had decided that a consequence of failing to follow proper class procedures and rules would be staying after class to clean up the room, assuming this would be perceived as a negative consequence.

To his surprise, it turned out the students saw cleaning the classroom as a positive and would fight over who got to clean up at the end of class.

Ahlstrom made adjustments to his classroom management plan. "Now cleaning up is a reward," he explained. "The good students get to clean and use the broom and the mop."

Ahlstrom also learned an-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Launi Brent with her students.

other striking difference between the Akoyikoyi students and students in the U.S.

One day early in the semester at the end of one week, he taught them the acronym, TGIF (Thank goodness it's Friday). The Chuukese students were confused. "Why would you be happy that it's Friday?" they asked.

While students in the States celebrate Fridays and the coming weekend with no school, Ahlstrom found that his students were definitely not thankful it was Friday. They were sad to miss school and their teachers. "They would love to go to school every day if they could," said Ahlstrom. He was pleasantly surprised at this positive attitude displayed by his young students.

Hall says that his teaching experience at Akoyikoyi has changed his whole outlook on kids in general. He has learned that when you show that you are invested in each of them, they respond positively—They become interested in being in school and learning.

Hall is unique in that he has returned to a place and people that he grew to love as a young Latter-day Saint missionary several years before. The first time he came he was a young man living away from home for the first time and trying to learn a new language, a different culture, and how to avoid Chuuk's aggressive dogs. "It

made life a little hectic," he explained with a smile.

He has been happy to have the chance to return with his prior knowledge and experience and take the opportunity to relax and enjoy Chuuk more. "I'm learning that I can go and do things that seem a little crazy at first," said Hall. "I'm learning that I can teach in front of a classroom."

Both Hall and Ahlstrom expressed the personal growth they have experienced. "I've gained confidence that I can survive and even thrive out of my comfort zone," said Ahlstrom. Watson says that she has learned to appreciate more the blessings she has enjoyed in her life, and strive to share those blessings with others. Brent is determined to travel the world with Ahlstrom, teaching and serving people in new and different places.

It goes without saying that all the teachers have grown spiritually as they have experienced a new country, culture, and climate. Their courage in being willing to leave their comfort zones and serve others has helped them to grow and prepare for a successful and meaningful life of service.

The group recommends for others the opportunity to serve at Akoyikoyi School. Anyone interested can find Akoyikoyi School's contact information online at <https://www.shiphoops.org/>. (PR)

Yap to be showcased at upcoming 2024 DEMA Dive Show in Las Vegas

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia —Yap will have a strong presence at the 2024 DEMA show that will take place from Nov. 19 to 22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Nevada. DEMA is the largest trade-only event in the world for companies doing business in the scuba diving and ocean water sports travel industries, attracting hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of dive and travel industry professionals each year.

The island will be represented at DEMA by Numie Acker and Darlene Giley, managers at Yap's renowned scuba diving establishment, Manta Ray Bay Resort. Visit them

at Booth #3018 to learn about Micronesia's best kept travel secret and the unique diving and cultural experiences that Yap has to offer. Manta Ray

» Join Manta Ray Bay Resort at Booth #3018 from Nov. 19 to 22

Bay Resort will also be plugging their latest product offering of regular Blackwater dives over the waters of the world's deepest ocean abyss, the nearby Marianas Trench. You will also be able to get information on and book for next year's Blackwater Fest

and Manta Fest, the Pacific's premier dive photography events, to be held from Aug. 23 to Sept. 6, 2025.

The team from Manta Ray Bay Resort will also be providing updates and information on two important cultural heritage events taking place on Yap in 2025. The first is Yap Day, which celebrates everything Yapese, and will be held on and around March 1, 2025. Then from July 21 to 25 Yap will play host to the 4th Annual Micronesia Expo, designed to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of all states that comprise the Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.



DAVID FLEETHAM

This image was captured a mile off the island of Yap at night with the bottom 1000+ feet below. At just two inches in length this appears to be the larval stage of a surgeonfish, Micronesia.

For appointments and more information on Yap's participation in DEMA 2024, email

yapdivers@mantaray.com.

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia

in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta rays, sharks and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing, and exploring the many World War II historical sites. Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visit Yap.com. (PR)

World

AS TENSIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA SOAR

North Korea blows up parts of inter-Korean roads

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said North Korea blew up the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use on Tuesday, as the rivals are locked in rising animosities over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a brief statement that North Korea blew up parts of the

roads on Tuesday.

It said South Korea's military is bolstering its readiness and surveillance posture but gave no further details.

The explosions came a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called a meeting with his top military and security officials. During the meeting, Kim described the alleged South Korean drone flights as the "enemy's serious provocation" and laid out unspecified

tasks related to "immediate military action" and the operation of his "war deterrent" for defending the country's sovereignty, the North's state media reported earlier Tuesday.

North Korea earlier put frontline artillery and other army units on standby to launch strikes on South Korea, if drones from South Korea are found over North Korea again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether

it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish North Korea if the safety of its citizens is threatened.

Destroying the roads would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea, formally cement it as his country's principal enemy and abandon the North's decades-long objective to seek a peaceful Korean unification.

During the previous era of

inter-Korean detente in the 2000s, the two Koreas reconnected two road routes and two rail tracks across their heavily fortified border. But their operations later were suspended one by one as the Koreas wrangled over North Korea's nuclear program and other issues.

Last week, North Korea said it would permanently block its border with South Korea and build front-line defense struc-

tures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and U.S. forces. South Korean officials said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and laying mines along the border since earlier this year. They said North Korea has also planted mines and removed lamps along its sections of the inter-Korean roads and taken out ties on the northern side of the railways.

UN Security Council voices 'strong concern' for UN peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council expressed "strong concern" Monday as Israel has fired on and wounded U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region.

It's the first statement by the U.N.'s most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began

last week, drawing international condemnation.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move 5 kilometers (3 miles) north during its ground invasion in Lebanon.

Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon across a U.N.-

drawn boundary between the two countries. The sides have been clashing since the Iranian-backed militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza. Hamas' deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launched the war.

The Security Council statement, issued after emergency closed consultations on Lebanon, did not name either Israel, Lebanon or Hezbollah. Read by Swiss U.N. Ambas-

sador Pascale Baeriswyl, the council's current president, it urges all parties "to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and U.N. premises."

The 15-member Security Council has been deeply divided over the war in Gaza, with the United States defending its ally Israel as support for the Palestinians has grown among members and casualties have escalated. The Biden administration has become more critical of civilian deaths as well as the

recent attacks on UNIFIL.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters that "it's good that the council can speak with one voice on what's on the minds of all people around the world right now—and it's the situation in Lebanon."

The council's statement sends a message to the Lebanese people "that the council cares, that the council is watching this issue and that the council today spoke with one voice," Wood said.

Council members also expressed "deep concern" at ci-

vilian casualties and suffering, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the rising number of internally displaced people.

More than 1,400 people in Lebanon, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, have been killed and 1.2 million displaced in the past month. Around 60 Israelis have been killed in Hezbollah strikes in the past year. Israel says it wants to drive the militant group away from the border so some 60,000 displaced Israelis can return to their homes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia says it captured southern Ukraine village in push before winter comes

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia said Monday it captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, including in eastern areas that are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives. Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago they struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region where around 400 drones reportedly were being kept.

Levadne, in the Zaporizhzhia region, was seized by the Russians early on during the full-scale invasion, which began on Feb. 24, 2022, but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023. Ukrainian officials made no comment about Levadne's reported capture, though they had previously noted that the Russian army was assembling troops there and was conducting local assaults at

the end of last week.

China deploys record 125 warplanes in large-scale military drill in warning to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said. China made clear it was to punish Taiwan's president for rejecting Beijing's claim of sovereignty over the self-governed island. The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment." "This is a resolute punishment for Lai Ching-te's continuous fabrication of 'Taiwan independence' nonsense," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

Swift, Kelce attend Game 1 of ALCS at Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP)—Turns out, Taylor and Travis like to watch a little baseball, too.

Pop superstar Taylor Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, were at Yankee Stadium on Monday night for Game 1 of the American League Championship Series between the Cleveland Guardians and New York Yankees.

The famous couple sat together in a suite down the

right-field line, in the second row above postseason bunting and a flag commemorating the Yankees' 1932 World Series championship.

Kelce, a Westlake, Ohio, native who went to high school in Cleveland Heights, sported a dark baseball cap with the words Midnight Rodeo on it. Swift also wore a hat on a 50-degree night in the Bronx.

Kelce, who turned 35 on Oct. 5, grew up rooting for

Kenny Lofton and Cleveland in the 1990s. Kelce threw a wild ceremonial first pitch before the Guardians' season opener last year.

It was the second major sporting event for Swift and Kelce in New York City over the past five-plus weeks. The couple also sat in a box to watch the men's final at the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Sept. 8 in Queens.

Kelce and the Chiefs, the



AP
Travis Kelce, right, and Taylor Swift attend Game 1 of the baseball AL Championship Series between the Cleveland Guardians and New York Yankees Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, in New York.

two-time defending Super Bowl champions, had a bye this weekend after opening the season 5-0. Their next game is Sunday at San Francisco, a rematch of last season's Super Bowl.

King Charles III set to visit Australia, Samoa

LONDON (AP)—King Charles III, who is 75 and battling cancer, will travel halfway around the world to Samoa this month to take his seat as the head of the Commonwealth and highlight the existential threat that climate change poses for Pacific island nations.

He will also return to Australia, a country that played a key role in Charles' adolescence—giving him the chance to be an almost normal teenager during the six months he spent at Timbertop school outside Melbourne in the 1960s. The visit marks the first time since he assumed the throne that Charles will visit one of the 14 countries outside the United Kingdom where the monarch is head of state.

The tour, from Friday to Oct. 26, is a watershed moment for Charles, who is slowly returning to public duties after a hiatus following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey is seen as a reflection of his workaholic ten-



AP
Britain's Prince Charles, right, and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, pose for photographs at the Mt Adelaide lookout in Albany, Australia, on Nov. 14, 2015.

dencies and his wish to put his stamp on the monarchy after waiting some seven decades to become king.

"He doesn't just want to be a sort of caretaker king, waiting in a sense for his own death and the accession of William," said Anna Whitelock, a professor of the history of the monarchy at City University, London, referring to Prince William. "He wants to be active in the world."

Charles' globetrotting itiner-

ary comes as he works to shore up support for the monarchy at home and abroad two years after ascending the throne.

It's a challenge the king will face in Australia, a country with a strong anti-monarchy movement.

Charles and Queen Camilla arrive in Australia with a schedule that includes a visit to Parliament House in Canberra, the Australian War Memorial and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander memorial.

6 people accuse Diddy of sexual assault in new lawsuits, including man who was 16 at the time

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs was hit Monday with a new wave of lawsuits accusing him of raping women, sexually assaulting men and molesting a 16-year-old boy. It is the first time he's been sued by a person alleging they were abused as a minor.

At least six lawsuits were filed against Combs in federal court in Manhattan, adding to a growing list of legal claims against the indicted hip-hop mogul, all of which he has denied. The lawsuits were filed anonymously to protect the identities of the accusers, two by women identified as Jane Does and four by men identified as John Does.

Some of the Does, echoing others who've accused Combs in recent months, allege that he used his fame and the promise of potential stardom to entice victims to lavish parties or drug-fueled hangouts where he then as-

saulted them. Some allege that he beat or drugged them. Others say he threatened to kill them if they didn't do as he pleased or if they spoke out against him.

The lawsuits describe alleged assaults dating to the mid-1990s, including at Combs' celebrity-studded white parties in Long Island's Hamptons, at a party in Brooklyn celebrating Combs' then-collaborator Biggie Smalls, and even in the storeroom at Macy's flagship department store in midtown Manhattan.

The plaintiffs in Monday's lawsuits are part of what their lawyers say is a group of more than 100 accusers who are in the process of taking legal action against Combs following his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. Plaintiffs' lawyer Tony Buzbee announced the planned litigation at an Oct. 1 news conference and posted a 1-800 number for accusers to call.

In a statement, Combs' lawyers slammed those tactics as "clear attempts to garner publicity," and said the rapper and his legal team "have full confidence in the facts, their legal defenses, and the integrity of the judicial process. In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs has never sexually assaulted anyone—adult or minor, man or woman."

Combs, 54, has pleaded not guilty in his criminal case, which involves allegations he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

Twice denied bail, the Bad Boy Records founder remains locked up at a Brooklyn federal jail while awaiting trial in May. Two judges have concluded that Combs would be a danger to the community if he is released.

Wife's 'adjustment' behind closed doors irks husband

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my wife and I and several other couples were houseguests in a large home. Among them was a couple who, when introduced, mentioned that the husband was a chiropractor. The following day, as we were all watching TV, my wife mentioned having neck and arm discomfort. The chiropractor offered to adjust her neck and back and they left.

After 30 minutes, I became concerned. After an hour, other guests were raising their eyebrows. I checked the house and couldn't find them, but I didn't look in bedrooms with closed doors. After 90 minutes, I quietly asked his wife where they were, and she said in their bedroom. I requested she check on them, and they promptly came out. There wasn't a scene, but I was upset. I was later advised that my attitude about this was "inappropriate." I'd appreciate your take on the situation.

DUMBFOUNDED IN GEORGIA

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: I don't think your attitude was inappropriate. You were uncomfortable because of your wife's long absence with another man while everyone else was mingling. That the chiropractor's wife knew where her husband and your wife were suggests to me there was nothing for you to worry about, but your feelings were your feelings, and under the circumstances, you were entitled to them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My parents live with my husband and me. I have a horrible relationship with my brother. He has always been demeaning, cruel and emotionally abusive to me. When my brother attacks, he goes for the jugular. Whenever I must have contact with him, I get so upset I can't sleep for days.

My husband and I have decided to cut him out of our lives, but my elderly mother will not accept that. When I tell her I can't see him, she shakes and cries for days. She says family forgives anything and everything, and I just have to put up with it. Is that true?

HURT IN INDIANA

DEAR HURT: Of course not! Stop telegraphing your plans to your mother, and stay away from your abuser. While you're doing that, remember that dear old Mom is responsible for her own feelings, and her tears and tremors stop when she gets her own way. You are an adult. You do not have to please your mother. And relatives do not have to forgive the unforgivable just because they happen to be blood-related.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have caught a close friend in several lies, small and big, over the past few years. Prior to this, we were close, but since these lies have piled up, I have pulled back. I don't trust her anymore and wonder how many more lies there

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



are. My question is, should I just let the friendship fizzle, or does she deserve an explanation?

TRUTH TELLER IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR TRUTH TELLER: If she asks why your relationship is no longer as close as it once was, tell her the truth since you are the truth teller. Unless she initiates the conversation, I see nothing to be gained by confronting her and possibly creating a scene.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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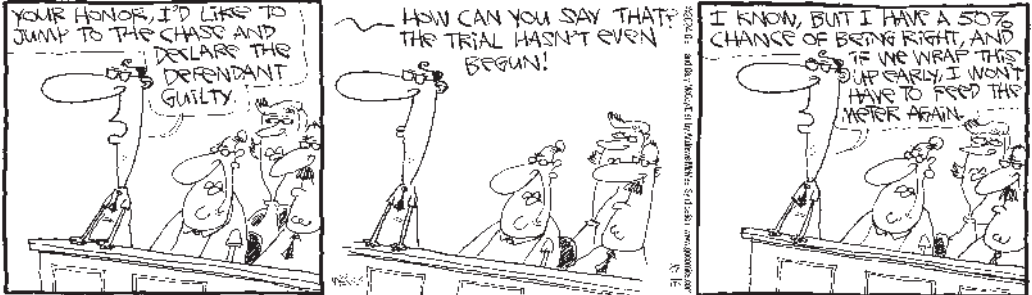
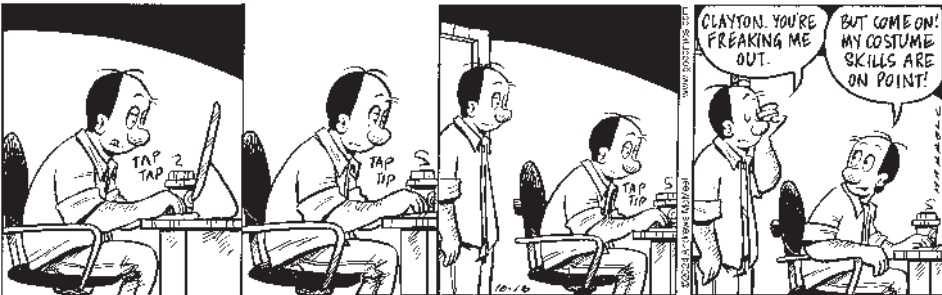


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

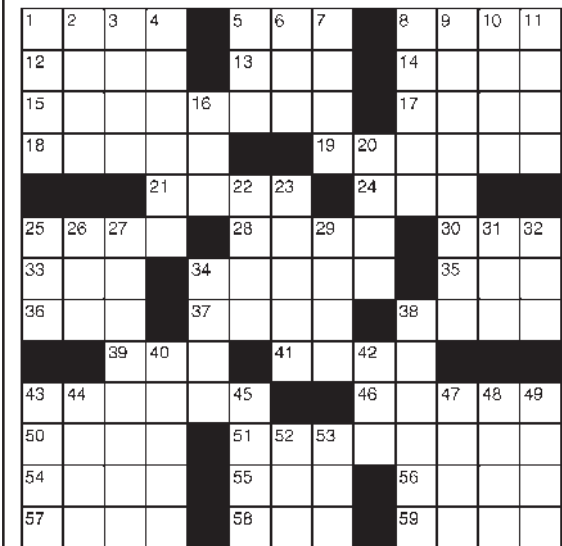
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Arrived
 - 5 Young dog
 - 8 Despot
 - 12 Country singer
 - 13 Son-gun link
 - 14 Cor-duroy ridge
 - 15 Approve
 - 17 Super-model
 - 18 Thai or Korean
 - 19 Prepare
 - 21 Sports figure?
 - 24 Chiding sound
 - 25 Bud holder
 - 28 Goatee's spot
 - 30 British rule of India
 - 33 Historic period
 - 34 "Pal Joey" author
 - 35 Garden of the Food Network
 - 36 Sandy color
- DOWN**
- 37 Nevada casino city
 - 38 Goblet feature
 - 39 Transcript no.
 - 41 Shoelace snarl
 - 43 Big lizard
 - 46 "Peanuts" blanket carrier
 - 50 Film genre
 - 51 Burrowing marine creature
 - 54 Gas container
 - 55 "As I see it," in a text
 - 56 Poodle's bane
 - 57 Spanish cheers
 - 58 Watch chain
 - 59 Meeting, in slang
 - 1 Juan's home
 - 2 "Sad to say ..."
 - 3 — pedi
 - 4 Sheathe
 - 5 Luau bowlful
 - 6 E.T.'s craft
 - 7 Hunger symptom
 - 8 Ninnies
 - 9 Classical language of India
 - 10 Sheltered
 - 11 Take it easy
 - 16 Blaster's need
 - 20 Sicilian spouter
 - 22 Rue the run
 - 23 Express gratitude to
 - 25 Bird doc
 - 26 Football's Par-seghian
 - 27 Opti-mistic
 - 29 Pressing thing?
 - 31 Chemical suffix
 - 32 Gridlock
 - 34 Algerian seaport
 - 38 Refuses to pay
 - 40 Urban oases
 - 42 Vintage
 - 43 Grooving on
 - 44 Soccer score
 - 45 "Dream on!"
 - 47 Egyptian river
 - 48 Exploits
 - 49 Persian leader
 - 52 I love (Lat.)
 - 53 San Francisco's — Hill

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Naomi Osaka, 27; John Mayer, 47; Kellie Martin, 49; Tim Robbins, 66.

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions and ego under wraps when dealing with domestic or professional matters. Anger solves nothing, but insight and ingenuity will put you in a position of power and help you navigate your way through ups and downs this year. Use your energy to take advantage of a new way to use your skills and promote unique opportunities. Keeping up with what's trending will put you in a leadership position. Your numbers are 4, 17, 23, 29, 31, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pick and choose who you allow in your circle. Surround yourself with upbeat, positive individuals, and you'll find it easier to manifest these traits in yourself and through your actions. Attitude will make a difference in how situations unfold. Positive input will attract good results. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take charge before someone else steps in and takes over. Utilize your strengths and diminish your weaknesses to avoid interference. Put your energy where it will have the most significant impact. Dominate from top to bottom with confidence, kindness and patience, and you'll gain trust and loyalty. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look on the bright side, but don't let anyone take advantage of you or your good nature. Trust yourself to get things done instead of relying on someone who talks big but accomplishes little. Anger and arguments will waste valuable time best spent tending to your agenda. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participation will lead to personal growth, new friends and honing your skills. You have plenty to gain if you promote yourself with confidence and finesse. Refuse to let your ego turn into negativity or false accusations. Get the facts, deal with matters quickly and move along. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Proceed with caution; too much too fast will backfire. Gather information, consider your options and leave no room for error. Knowledge and experience are your best routes forward. Get the facts, put a plan in place and have the courage to follow through until you are satisfied with your results. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You know the rules and how to play the game, so don't waffle now when it's time to forge ahead with vim and vigor. A change is within reach and will add to your required momentum to reach your goal. Turn on the charm and enjoy the ride. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your energy into something that will help you get ahead. Raise your qualifications or skills, or share your vision with someone in a position to help promote you. It's best to create opportunities instead of waiting for them to come to you. Follow your heart. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You're in the driver's seat; formalize your case, ask for what you want and confidently push forward. Set a budget you can live with and refuse to let anyone talk you into spending or offering more than you can handle. Truth, trust and timing form your ticket forward. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take time for self-improvement, personal growth and mapping out a path that leads to happiness and peace of mind. Dedication, understanding and knowing who is and who isn't on your side are the markers that determine your success. Don't be afraid to do your own thing. Act accordingly. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You know the ropes, so don't let emotions kick in and disrupt your plans. Put a budget in place to accommodate what you want to achieve, and don't look back. Your tenacity and insight will unnerve anyone trying to outmaneuver you or get in your way. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Participation will lead to discovery and opportunity. Adjust investments, and put your energy into something that encourages fitness, routine and a healthy lifestyle. Turn your attention to well-thought-out functional changes. Don't be a bystander; own the spotlight and make things happen. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Play fair and watch for anyone who displays untrustworthiness. Live within your means and put a greater onus on health, fitness and diet. Nurture what and whom you love, and make romance a priority. Travel, expanding your interests and knowledge, and personal growth are favored. ***

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, charismatic and energetic. You are intuitive and curious.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★

10/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

USING YOUR 401(K)

Solution: 9 letters

E P N T N H T B S E L U R P S
S M R A C E S D O L L A R S E
A T O L A E A N N A E T T X
H L S H F P R I C E D C L O A
C T G E O I E T I M E N A C T
R R N S V S T L N E B A T K A
U E I U A N N N M O T L I S D
P T V L O I I P U T C A P E I
S I A E N C L P R O A B A N K
Y R S C N O C O E D M R C F T
Y E O E Y U S A V N N A U I T
Y M N M E N E I D I S N M E I
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Lindor homers as Mets stop Dodgers' scoreless streak

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The New York Mets weren't sure what they were going to get with the Los Angeles Dodgers sending out a parade of relievers in a bullpen game.

They found out right away.

Francisco Lindor and Mark Vientos homered as the Mets stopped the Dodgers' record-tying postseason scoreless streak in a 7-3 victory on Monday, tying the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Lindor added to his storybook season with a lead-off homer in the first inning against Ryan Brasier. Viento delivered during New York's five-run second, connecting for a grand slam against Landon Knack.

Before Lindor went deep, Los Angeles had a string of 33 consecutive scoreless innings. Jack Flaherty led the Dodgers to a 9-0 victory in Game 1 of the NLCS on Sunday night.

"I didn't know it," Lindor said of the Dodgers' streak. "I was just trying to have a quality at-bat and get the guys going."

Sean Manaea opened Game 2 with four shutout innings for New York. He was charged with three runs, two earned, and two hits in five-plus innings. Closer Edwin Díaz earned a four-out save.

"Having a lead like that just makes it a little easier," Manaea said. "Just trying to attack guys and get ahead and go right after them."

Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani was 0 for 3 with two strikeouts against Manaea and two walks, including one against Díaz. He is 0 for 19 with the bases empty in his first postseason.

"He's one of the best hitters in the league, but I've got really good stuff," Díaz said. "I just go after him. Hit the ball, if you get to two strikes, I will make you chase."

Manager Dave Roberts has no intention of moving Ohtani out of the leadoff spot.

"I want Shohei to get five at-bats a game," Roberts said. "I think he's our best hitter, and I want him up there five times."

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday in New York.

"It's not a sprint," Manaea said. "It's definitely going to be a grind of a series."

The Mets jumped all over the Dodgers after flopping in the opener.

Lindor fouled off four consecutive pitches from Brasier before sending a 395-foot shot to right for his leadoff homer.

"When you're facing a bullpen day, I think it's hard to game plan but you've got to go out there make adjustments, whether it's putting



New York Mets pitcher Edwin Díaz, left, celebrates with catcher Francisco Alvarez after their win against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 2 of a baseball NL Championship Series, Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, in Los Angeles. AP

the ball in play, moving a guy over, getting a guy in," rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "Those are the little things that you have to do to win games in the playoffs when you're facing an elite pitching staff."

Knack took over for LA in the second and gave up a lead-off single to Starling Marte and then walked Jesse Winker. One out later, Tyrone Taylor doubled to left, scoring Marte.

After Francisco Alvarez popped to shortstop, Lindor was intentionally walked to load the bases. Vientos sent a 391-foot shot to center for the third grand slam in Mets playoff history. That extended the lead to 6-0 and silenced the sellout crowd of 52,926.

"You've got Francisco ahead of me, and he hit a home run earlier in the game, so they would rather take a chance on me than him," Vientos said. "But I use it as motivation. I'm like, 'All right, you want me up? I'm going to show you, whatever.'"

It was the Mets' second slam of the playoffs. Lindor hit a go-ahead slam in Game 4 of the NL Division Series against Philadelphia. Edgardo Alfonzo had the club's first playoff slam in 1999.

The Dodgers had the potential tying run at the plate with two outs in the eighth.

Tommy Edman singled and Max Muncy walked before the Mets brought in Díaz for the first time since he closed out the NL Division Series. The runners moved up on a double steal before Kiké Hernández flied out to shallow right field to end the threat.

Facing elimination, the Dodgers successfully de-

ployed a bullpen game against San Diego in Game 4 of the NL Division Series, but it was a much different story against the Mets.

"It all is great when it works well and guys are throwing up zeros, but you're still facing really good ballclubs," Roberts said. "There is a margin that you have to guard against and kind of really appreciate the cost of the next games, and not forgetting that this isn't a winner-take-all game. It's not a three-game series."

After Muncy homered leading off the fifth, the Dodgers rallied in the sixth to trail 6-3, reigniting the crowd.

Manaea issued consecutive walks to Mookie Betts and Teoscar Hernández to open the inning. Freddie Freeman grounded into a high bouncing fielder's choice to second that Jose Iglesias couldn't field cleanly. Hernández was safe at second on the error as Manaea exited.

Edman singled to right off Phil Maton with two strikes, scoring Betts and Hernández. Muncy walked to load the bases again and bring up Kiké Hernández, who bounced to Vientos at third.

Vientos initially bobbled the ball before throwing to second, where Muncy slid into the leg of Iglesias. Pete Alonso then kept his foot on the bag as he stretched to haul in Iglesias' throw.

The Dodgers challenged the double-play call, but it was upheld and the inning ended.

"I probably had the two biggest at-bats of the game and didn't come through," Kiké Hernández said. "Even the fact that we fell behind early,

we were in it until the end of the game and one swing away. We lost this one but staying positive and looking forward to the next one."

Manaea was the first left-handed starter the Dodgers have faced this postseason. They saw him plenty during his time with San Diego in 2022 and San Francisco last year. But he changed his delivery midway through this season with the Mets, dropping his arm slot and releasing the ball more horizontally.

"He's quite different," Kiké Hernández said. "The ball is coming out way wider and lower than it was before. Falling behind big early in the game made us a little more hesitant to be aggressive against him."

The Mets took advantage of hard-throwing Dodgers rookie Edgardo Henriquez with an insurance run in the ninth.

YANKEES 5, GUARDIANS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Soto's home run punctured Cleveland pitching, which then went wild.

Soto put New York ahead in a three-run third inning, Carlos Rodón got his first postseason win and the Yankees beat the Guardians 5-2 on Monday night in an AL Championship Series opener that included Cleveland throwing five wild pitches and walking nine batters.

Giancarlo Stanton added his 13th career postseason homer for the Yankees, who are seeking a record 41st AL pennant and their first since winning the 2009 title.

"Getting the start-off win is big," Stanton said. "It's a mes-

sage in its own."

Cleveland became the second team to throw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches in a postseason inning and tied a postseason record with five overall. Guardians pitchers walked six in a nine-batter span and nine overall.

"They don't chase a whole lot," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said. "If I take something away from tonight, we just need to attack the zone better."

New York batters have walked 36 times in five postseason games.

"That's what they're capable of. That's in their DNA," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We beat that over — we hammer it."

Game 2 is at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday night. Entering this year, teams taking the opener of a series with a 2-3-2 format have won 66 of 99 times.

Soto came in 7 for 11 with two homers against Cobb. Before a sellout crowd of 47,264 that included pop star Taylor Swift, Soto hit his first postseason homer for New York when he drove a high slider from Alex Cobb into the Yankees' bullpen in right-center.

He made a circle sign toward the relievers with his hands as he rounded first.

"It's only me and the bullpen," Soto said, smiling. "We keep it to ourselves."

Rodón rebounded from the Yankees' only loss in the Division Series, limiting the Guardians to a pair of singles before Brayan Rocchio's sixth-inning homer.

"The goal was to just stay in control, stay in control of what I can do, obviously physically and emotionally,"

Rodón said. "I thought I executed that well tonight."

Stanton's seventh-inning homer boosted the lead to 5-1. Steven Kwan cut the Guardians' deficit when he extended his postseason hitting streak to a team-record 11 games with an RBI single in the eighth off Clay Holmes.

Luke Weaver relieved with runners at the corners. He struck out pinch-hitter Will Brennan and retired José Ramírez on a groundout, and then followed a leadoff walk in the ninth with three straight strikeouts for his fourth save this postseason.

Making his first playoff appearance in 11 years, Cobb walked the bases loaded in the third and rookie reliever Joey Cantillo threw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches.

Cantillo had four wild pitches overall, one shy of the record for a postseason game set by Rick Ankiel of St. Louis in a 2000 NL Division Series opener against Atlanta.

The only other time a team scored twice on wild pitches in a postseason inning was by Minnesota against Oakland's Tim Lincecum and Ted Lilly in the 2002 AL Division Series.

"That performance was obviously the difference in the game, so that's on me," Cantillo said.

Cobb dropped in 0-2 in the playoffs, making just his fifth start in a year limited by injuries. He threw 36 of 65 pitches for strikes, getting only one swing and miss, and allowed three runs, five hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Cobb, who had hip surgery last Oct. 31, was removed because of hip tightness and a back spasm.

"It's kind of been there for a little bit but, obviously, I had the surgery and tendinitis kind of flares up every once in a while," Cobb said. "Sometimes the back will tighten up along with it."

Rodón struck out nine and walked none, getting 25 misses among 53 swings, matching the fourth-most misses in a postseason game since pitch-tracking began in 2008. His pitches broke so much that catcher Austin Wells had to throw to first three times on strikeouts for the putouts.

"He was just in complete command of himself and of his emotions," Boone said.

Still, New York knows it was only one game. The Yankees opened the 2019 ALCS with a win at Houston, then lost three in a row and were knocked out in six games.

"In our eyes, we haven't done nothing yet," Stanton said. "We've got to win three out of six, and we take that as three out of three."

Bills overcome Rodgers' Hail Mary, beat Jets to take control in AFC East



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills overcame a Hail Mary touchdown throw by Aaron Rodgers as the first half ended to outlast the New York Jets 23-20 on Monday night and take control of the AFC East.

Allen threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score and Tyler Bass made up for an earlier miss by kicking a go-ahead 22-yard field goal with 3:43 left to help the Bills (4-2) snap a two-game skid. They have never lost three straight with Allen starting at quarterback.

The loss was the third in a row for the Jets (2-4), who capped a tumultuous week during which coach Robert Saleh was fired, defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich replaced him as the interim coach and offensive coordinator Nathan-



iel Hackett was demoted from play-calling duties in favor of Todd Downing.

Normally reliable kicker Greg Zuerlein missed two potential go-ahead field

goals for the Jets, hitting the left upright on both.

The game was filled with yellow penalty flags all night—both teams had 11 penalties.

Allen finished 19 of 25 for 215 yards. Rookie Ray Davis, filling in for the injured James Cook, ran for 97 yards on 20 carries and caught three passes for 55 yards.

With the Jets trailing 23-20, Rodgers threw deep for Mike Williams but the pass was short and Taron Johnson—back after breaking his right forearm in the season opener—came up with the interception.

Allen and the Bills were able to then run out the clock and seal the win. They are the only team in the division with a winning record.

Rodgers was 23 of 35 for 294 yards with two touch-

downs and the INT, and Breece Hall had 113 yards rushing and 56 receiving.

Rodgers' deep throw on the final play of the opening half had the Jets, their fans—and social media—buzzing.

With the Jets at their own 48 and perhaps hoping to get into field goal range before halftime, Rodgers took a few steps back and danced around a bit before launching the ball toward the end zone. Allen Lazard reached up in front of two Bills defenders and fell on his back.

After a quick huddle, officials ruled it a touchdown.

The Jets got in an early rhythm on offense with Downing calling the plays as Rodgers got New York into the red zone. A drop by Hall on third down made the Jets settle for a 34-yard field goal by Zuerlein—New York's first points on an opening drive this season.

Buffalo bounced back by running all over New York's defense, gashing Ulbrich's unit for 61 yards rushing—including 48 on six carries by Davis—and capping the Bills' opening drive with a 1-yard keeper by Allen to make it 7-3.

Allen's 56th career TD run put him one behind O.J. Simpson for second in franchise history.

Garrett Wilson gave the Jets back the lead on their next drive, capping things by catching a 5-yard pass from Rodgers in the back of the end zone

and getting both feet down on a play that was initially ruled incomplete but reversed on video replay before Ulbrich needed to challenge.

Allen led the Bills on a 90-yard drive to give Buffalo back the lead, capped by an 8-yard TD pass to Mack Hollins. Quinnen Williams got his hand on Bass' extra point try that sailed wide left.

Allen sparked the drive when he danced out of the end zone, scrambled to his right and threw across his body down the middle of the field where Davis got his hands on the ball, bobbled it and came down with it for a 42-yard catch.

Allen's second touchdown pass was a 12-yard throw to Dawson Knox with 21 seconds remaining before halftime to put Buffalo up 20-10.

Bass missed another kick on Buffalo's opening drive of the second half, pushing a 47-yarder wide right.

Zuerlein tied it at 20 with a 22-yarder midway through the third quarter.

The Jets appeared to take the lead late on their next possession when Braelon Allen ran up the middle from 4 yards out, but left tackle Tyron Smith was called for holding. Rodgers connected with Wilson in the back of the end zone on the next play, but the wide receiver couldn't hold onto the ball after being walloped by Damar Hamlin and Taylor Rapp.

Zuerlein then hit the left upright on a 32-yard attempt to keep the game tied. He also missed a potential go-ahead 43-yarder with 9:44 left in the fourth quarter, hitting the upright again.

Cardinals seeking a streak after nearly 3 years of failing to win consecutive games

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

The Arizona Cardinals have had a few moments this season when they've looked like one of the better teams in the NFL. They've had even more moments when they've looked like one of the worst.

Add those up, and they're a 2-4 team.

The past two weeks have been a good representation of the Cardinals' inconsistency. Seven days after a come-from-behind 24-23 win over the defending NFC champion San Francisco 49ers, the Cardinals got smoked 34-13 by the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

It was an ugly day for the visitors at Lambeau Field. Arizona had three turnovers, 13 penalties and one frustrated quarterback.

The Cardinals haven't won back-to-back games since 2021.

"To be a good team, you have to be consistent," quarterback Kyler Murray said. "We just got to look in the mirror. I don't know if you feel like you did something because you beat the 49ers last week. I don't know what it is, but that can't happen."

As the Cardinals prepare to host the Los Angeles Chargers next Monday night, it's fair to wonder which Arizona team will show up. Second-year coach Jonathan Gannon said after watching video from the Packers game that effort wasn't a problem.

"We're going to be violent, we're going to play fast and

physical," Gannon said. "But we've got to be cleaner."

The Packers took a 24-0 lead on Sunday and coasted from there, but Gannon said he expects the Cardinals to bounce back quickly.

"It's very clear why we lost the game," Gannon said. "We did some good things in that game, too. But there are things that if we continue to do, we're not going to win."

What's working

The Cardinals have gotten solid play out of Murray, won completed 22 of 32 passes for 214 yards and a touchdown against the Packers, though he did lose a fumble. Murray ranks eighth in the NFL in quarterback rating through six games, sitting just behind C.J. Stroud and ahead of Patrick Mahomes and Baker Mayfield.

What needs help

Arizona's defense couldn't get much pressure on Green Bay's Jordan Love, who had plenty of time to throw four touchdown passes. The Cardinals have 11 sacks this season, which ranks 24th in the league.

"We have to do a better job of affecting the quarterback and that starts with me," Gannon said.

Stock up

TE Trey McBride had a productive game, catching a season-high eight passes for 96 yards. The 24-year-old is arguably the team's top pass-catching option if Marvin

Harrison Jr. has to miss time with a concussion.

Stock down

Arizona has gained a reputation as one of the most disciplined teams in the NFL during Gannon's tenure and had a league-low 19 penalties through five games this season. The sixth game was not as kind. The Cardinals were whistled 13 times for 100 yards.

Gannon was particularly irritated about pre-snap penalties.

"Those are non-negotiables for us, uncharacteristic of us, so that's why we have to look at why those things happened and do a better job there," Gannon said. "You don't want to go backwards before the ball is snapped."

Injuries

The Cardinals had several players leave Sunday's game but Gannon was hopeful that none of the injuries would be long-term. Harrison (concussion), LB Kyzir White (knee), DL Bilal Nichols (stinger), G Evan Brown (ankle) and CB Sean Murphy-Bunting (neck) are among those battling ailments.

Key number

Dec. 5, 2021—That's the last time the Cardinals won a second straight game. Since then, Arizona is 11-34.

Next steps

The Cardinals get an extra day to recuperate before hosting the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday, Oct. 21.

Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa expected to play again this season

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is expected to play football again in 2024 after being diagnosed with his third concussion in two years earlier this season.

Coach Mike McDaniel said Monday that Tagovailoa had "positive" meetings with neurologists during the Dolphins bye week, though he remains in concussion protocol and on injured reserve.

"I do expect him to see him playing football in 2024," McDaniel said for the first time since Tagovailoa's injury, "but where that is exactly, we'll let the process continue."

Tagovailoa isn't eligible to return until Miami's game against the Arizona Cardinals in Week 8, and McDaniel said the quarterback will

continue consulting experts to determine when it will be safe for him to play.

Tagovailoa got hurt in a Week 2 game against Buffalo when he collided with Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin. Tagovailoa ran for a first down and then initiated the contact by lowering his shoulder into Hamlin instead of sliding.

He has a history of head injuries since entering the NFL, having been diagnosed with two in 2022 and suffering another scary hit to the head that season, which led to changes in the NFL's concussion rules.

McDaniel has cautioned against speculating on Tagovailoa's future since his latest injury.

"I never went down that rabbit hole of if he would or

wouldn't (continue playing football)," McDaniel said, "just because I've learned through circumstance that that's the wrong question to be asking. The right questions are completely, 100% toward the human being."

The Dolphins have struggled on offense as three different quarterbacks have taken snaps in Tagovailoa's place. Entering this week's matchup at Indianapolis, the Dolphins have one of the NFL's worst scoring offenses with 12 points per game.

Miami will stick with Tyler "Snoop" Huntley until Tagovailoa returns. Huntley is 1-1 in two starts for Miami this season. McDaniel said the former Ravens quarterback is growing in his understanding of the offense.

Hyun tops CWGA October tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

 Son “Sunny” Hyun posted her first win in the CNMI Women’s Golf Association this season during the October CWGA Tournament held last Oct. 12 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 55-year-old Boss Karaoke owner shot a net score of 77 following a 42 in the front nine and a 43 in the back nine for a gross of 85.

“The course was a little difficult because the grass was long and it was hard to find the ball when it went into the rough. The weather was nice and clear. My best hole was No. 8 because I almost made a hole-in-one. I made a birdie there,” she said.

Janet Torres came in second with a net score of 78 built around a gross of 92 and a front and back nine of twin 46s. Completing the Top 3 was CWGA president Yuko Togawa after she carded a net 84 on the strength of her 89 gross (42-47). Sherlyn Jones actually finished tied with Togawa with her identical net score of 84 (94, 45-49), but lost via scorecard tiebreak.

A total of nine CWGA members took part in the October tourney. The rest of the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Clara Chang (87), Flor Jones (88), Rose Rohringer (92), Lorraine Babauta (93), and Doll Yamagishi (95).

Last month, Chang topped the September CWGA Tournament after

firing a net score 76 following a front and back nine of 48-47 for a gross score of 95.

She said after many days of rain, the skies cleared up and allowed CWGA to play their monthly competition, but it was a rough day on the golf course nonetheless.

“The golf course was very tough and the air was heavy, making for a tough round.”

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at (670) 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at (670) 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at (670) 783-7317.



Hyun



CWGA

Group photo of CNMI Women’s Golf Association members during the October CWGA Tournament held last Oct. 12 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

NMI

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The team consists of 23 players—Edward Arriola III, Gaus Ranada, Nolan Ngewakl, Riku Takahashi, Yutaka Kadokura, Aiden Camacho, Chan Woong Yeom, Chan Seo Yeom, Rooney Gil, Terrel Kileleman-Hix, Benetton Haro, Akoni Matsumoto, Kian Estolas, Theo Joab, Taiga Namai-Scoggins, Jayson Tagabuel, Jack Raho, Taher Shakir, John Quidato, Emaon Tang, David Xing, Moshe Sikkell, and Mark Costales.

They will be joined by head coach Konomi Suzuki; assistant coach Jireh Yobech; goalkeeper coach Takumi Kanda; team manager Khristelle Itaas; equipment manager Bernadette Horey; and team doctor/physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

In attendance during the send-off were Northern Marianas Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, NMIFA general secretary Ross



LEIGH GASES

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Executive Committee member Alex Sablan makes his opening remarks during the send-off ceremony for the NMI U17 Men’s National Soccer Team last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Zapanta, NMIFA Executive Committee members Alex Sablan and Catherine Attao-Toves, and family and friends of the team.

Sablan, in his opening remarks, gave many thanks. First, he thanked

the coaches and administrator accompanying the team who hopefully will coach them to victory; then the clubs and their coaches, the volunteers, and the parents of the players who brought them to the games and practices throughout the years.

“We have come a long way in building very good teams when we send them off to competition. They are going to face fierce competition even at U17,” he said. “It’s going to be fierce competition but I know that these young men have been putting the time and effort in. I know that you are concerned about your kids playing in the rain and in these conditions sometimes, but this is about conditioning for the team to go out and play on the international tour of competition.”

He added, “We’re hopeful that they are going to be able to compete and be winners in this competition and we’re thankful for their efforts thus far.”



LEIGH GASES

NMI U17 Men’s National Soccer Team keeper Edward Arriola III makes his remarks after team captain Nolan Ngewakl, standing center in blue, during the send-off ceremony for the NMI U17 Men’s National Soccer Team last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

JACOB

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at 15:59, while Hopwood Middle School Hilitai’s Kristen Sierra was bronze at 16:30.

Faith said after the race that the championship course was very tiring, but was grateful for the golden finish.

Throughout the season, she was overshadowed by Saipan Community School’s Alyssa Brasuell who won first place in three qualifiers. But in

In Attao-Toves’ closing remarks, she also thanked and acknowledged NMIFA, the clubs, and the player’s parents. “It is with these relationships that players transition into becoming a national player.” She added, “We understand the sacrifices you’ve made to get you to where you’re at right here at this moment. With every sacrifice, great achievements will follow as you take foot on the international stage. Keep that eye of the tiger that will empower your strength, confidence and courage, and play with the heart of a champion, because that is exactly who you are to us. You are our champions. Collectively, we are proud of you. We are mighty because we are NMI.”

For team captain Ngewakl, he thanked the NMIFA staff for supporting them throughout their career and made them ready for this moment. Arriola added, “We are grateful for the opportunity to play abroad and we’d like to thank the officials and

our parents especially, for taking us to practices for a while now. We’re just looking forward to being able to represent and make you guys proud.”

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	165	126
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	4	0	.333	113	108
New England	1	5	0	.167	83	143

South						
Houston	5	1	0	.833	143	135
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	139	139
Tennessee	1	4	0	.200	96	110
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	113	178

North						
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	177	149
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	124	86
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	157	152
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	95	141

West						
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	91	66
Denver	3	3	0	.500	112	96
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	109	163

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
Washington	4	2	0	.667	178	145
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	106	112
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	96	121

South						
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	149	135
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	178	141
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	167	147
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	103	203

North						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	4	1	0	.800	151	91
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	148	101
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	162	121

West						
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	162	130
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	150
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	133	163
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

From page 16

the game as both teams could not get past each other’s keeper. The clock was winding down with only goose eggs on the board until GES 1’s Evan Poole slotted one in the 25th minute.

The struggle for possession ensued once more as GES 2 tried to get on

the board and even it up. However, it was not meant to be with GES 1 making back-to-back goals in the 41st and 42nd by Jacob Borja and Keanu Pangelinan.

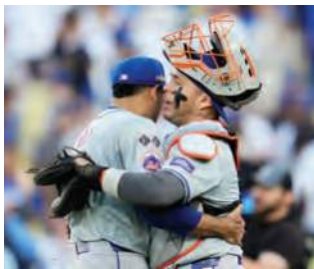
At 3-0, GES 2 failed to catch up as the closing whistle sounded and handed the win to GES 1.

The finals is set for tomorrow, Thursday, Oct. 17 at 5:30pm. The third place match between SIS and GES 2 is right before at 4pm.



NMIFA

File photo shows a Garapan Elementary School player, right, going up against a Saipan Community School player during one of their games in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jacob, Faith are MS x-country champs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dandan Middle School Tottots and Saipan International School Lady Geckos were the fastest middle school cross country runners this season—with two of their runners taking the top spot in their respective divisions of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.

Jacob Encabo, who came in first place in two out of the four qualifiers, ended the season strong with a golden run time of 13:09 in the 2-mile,

2-lap race.

Silver was teammate Yuxi Lu with a time of 13:48, while bronze went to Agape Christian School Torch-bearer's Lucas Yang at 14:10.

Encabo, who joined cross-country just this season, said, "It feels good and

amazing to win first place."

The 8th grader is a basketball player but decided to join the cross-country team this season and had DMS coaches Jeri Mae Tudela and Simon Necesito to thank.

As for his favorite course this cross-country season, he

said it was the championship course at the Saipan Vegas Country Club for its twists and turns and its hills.

In the girls division, SIS' Faith Arriola, also an 8th grader, ran for gold with a time of 15:17.

Silver went to schoolmate and sister Neveah Arriola

See JACOB on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

The Top 3 boys and girls in the middle school division poses with Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb, far left, and Board of Education secretary/treasurer Greg Borja, far right, during the awards ceremony of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.



LEIGH GASES

Middle school boys champion Dandan Middle School's Jacob Encabo runs to the finish line of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.



LEIGH GASES

Middle school girls champion Saipan International School's Faith Arriola runs to the finish line of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.

WSR 1, GES 1 to vie for soccer title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The finals stage is set as William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers 1 and Garapan Elementary School Mallards 1 are vying for the championship title of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League.

In the semis, the Kingfishers outlasted Saipan International School Geckos, 2-1, last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Kingfishers, after settling for second place last season, are back in the finals, while defending champions Koblerville Elementary School Umangs are out of contention. With that, the Kingfishers took on the Geckos with confidence despite an early attack by SIS' Guy Pudney in the first minute.

WSR's Ryan Ichihara lev-



NMIFA

File photo shows a William S. Reyes player, center, dribbling the ball with defenders flanking him during one of their games in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

eled the playing field with an equalizer nine minutes in and it was anybody's game. Both teams looked to score and they were evenly matched until WSR's Raynold Saka netted the second goal in the 12th minute.

The 2-1 WSR lead held steadfast as the first half faded and as the second half

unfolded. SIS had opportunities that were wasted and the Kingfishers hung on by a thread to solidify their finals spot for a chance at redemption this season.

As for the semis between both GES teams there were no such thing as friends as GES 1 kicked out GES 2, 3-0.

Defense was the name of

See SOCCER on Page 15



NMI U17 team off to Kuwait for AFC qualifier



LEIGH GASES

The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team poses for a photo with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, foreground left, holding the flag with team captain Nolan Ngewakl, foreground right, during the send-off ceremony last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team was sent off with good luck and well wishes last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville for

their trip to Salmiya, Kuwait.

The team will compete in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers from Oct. 24 to 28, 2024.

There are 10 groups in the tournament, with the NMI in Group G.

The team will have three

matches and the first team they will go up against is powerhouse Australia on Thursday, Oct. 24. They will then square off against Indonesia on Tuesday, Saturday, Oct. 26, before taking on host Kuwait for their final match on Monday, Oct. 28.

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